



Children's Mental Health Collective Impact Trauma-Informed Care Action Team

Children who are impacted by toxic stress or trauma often don't have the language to describe their complex emotions. Instead, they may have difficulty learning, trusting adults, developing healthy relationships, or they may have unexplained physical symptoms like head and stomachaches. Being curious about what underlies these issues may lead to helpful interventions that could prevent long term negative impacts.

TIC is a framework that highlights the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), toxic stress, and trauma. This information becomes the foundation in understanding how to reshape interpersonal interactions, organizational operations, and community activities.

Trauma-Informed Care Policy and Practice Workshops

The Trauma-Informed Care Action Team (TICAT) facilitates a TIC learning community focused on organizational trauma-informed care transformation. In partnership with Wisconsin's state agencies' [Area Administration](#), the TICAT presented four workshops to provide over 300 attendees with practical TIC tips. Topics included the following:

- Consumer Involvement and TIC transformation
- Human Resources from a TIC perspective
- Organizational TIC transformation

Mapping Trauma-Informed Care Activities

The Trauma-informed Care Action Team has been mapping the initiatives and agencies across the state who are undergoing the trauma-informed care transformation. Agencies across Wisconsin completed a survey providing information about their TIC transformation. The map provides contact information so communities or sectors can connect their efforts and learn from each other. The TIC maps and additional data can be found at <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/Integrate/TICMap.aspx>

Key Activities

- Increase awareness of trauma-informed care activities in tribes and counties through mapping initiative.
- Promote trauma-informed care transformation through policy change workshops.

Trauma-Informed Care Action Team Indicators

The TIC Action Team will track their success using the following measurements:



Percent of children with two or more ACEs



Spending on mental health and substance use treatment



Juvenile arrest rate

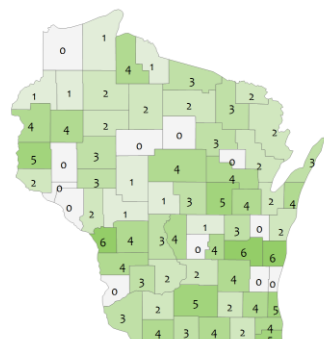


Number of TIC initiatives within each county or tribe

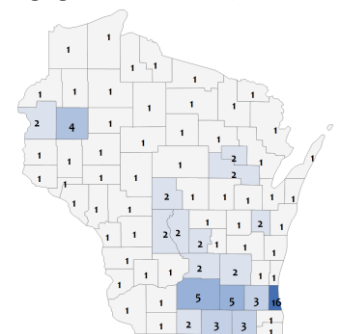
Initiatives include the following:

- Child Welfare in the Courts
- Fostering Futures
- Trauma-Sensitive Schools
- Wisconsin Trauma Project:
 - TF-CBT
 - Trauma-Informed Parenting

Bad River Tribe	0
Forest Potawatomi Tribe	2
Ho Chunk Nation (Tribe)	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	3
Lac du Flambeau Tribe	2
Menominee Nation (Tribe)	4
Red Cliff Tribe	1
Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe	0
St. Croix Tribe	2
Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe	1



Number of Wisconsin agencies engaged in TIC transformation



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Tipping the Scale

Wisconsin's future success relies on the health and well-being of our children. To ensure new generations of productive, conscientious citizens, we must counter any negative experiences that cause toxic stress with protective factors. The Office of Children's Mental Health is using the metaphor of a scale² to think of the course of a child's development. A scale has two ways to tip the balance, the counterbalance and the fulcrum or balancing point. In the metaphor, the positive experiences or protective factors, are loaded on to one side of the scale while the challenges or risk factors are on the other side. If the scale is loaded with positive experiences (not all experiences hold the same weight) the scale tips in a positive direction. A person with a scale tipped toward the negative side has increased risk of negative health outcomes.

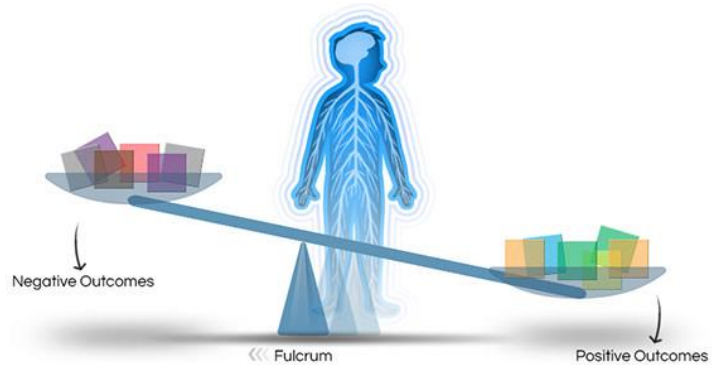
The Role of Genes

The second way to tip the scale is to move the fulcrum. Besides experiences, genes also play a role. In this metaphor the fulcrum represents the genetic inheritance of a person. Some people are born more susceptible to toxic stress and others are less affected. Research into epigenetics has found that the fulcrum is not permanently set. There are pivotal times in a child's development when experiences can modify how genes are expressed. These times, such as the first five years of a child's life, the passage to adolescence and the transition to adulthood, are critical periods where intervention has a greater impact on long-term well-being. Leveraging resources to enhance supports at these critical times is a wise investment in our children's future.

The Community's Role

A child's community plays an important role. The network of community relationships, environments and opportunities all lay the groundwork for the next generation. Parents play key roles in a child's life, and other adults can as well. An attentive child care provider, teacher, coach or neighbor can bolster a child's resilience against toxic stress. We can change the trajectory of the next generation by increasing broad-based understanding in communities around the importance of a child's social and emotional development, and bolstering resources for children and families.

Tipping the scale towards positive outcomes by ensuring that families and youth have access to appropriate and quality supports and services



Trauma-Informed Care in Action

- **Communities:** Along with media outreach, TIC champions have sponsored community movie nights featuring *Resilience* and *Paper Tigers*. These moving have served as a platform to discuss trauma and resilience in the communities.
- **Schools:** A process called "Handle with Care" is in place to notify educators that a child has experienced a recent trauma. Educators are not provided details about the event but are given noticed that a child and family may benefit from greater sensitivity and care.
- **Organizations:** Many social service agencies have integrated questions about a person's trauma history and subsequent symptoms as part of the assessment process.
- **Government:** County, tribal and state agencies are implementing TIC changes into their human resource practices, work policies, and trainings.

1. Kendall-Taylor, Nathaniel. (2012). The Resilience Scale: Using Metaphor to Communicate a Developmental Perspective on Resilience. Washington, DC: FrameWorks Institute.